

Common Soldier Activity

Instructions: You are a Civil War soldier getting ready for your first major campaign. You may be “on the road” for several months – sometimes marching over 20 miles/ day, perhaps fighting several major battles with the enemy. The army has issued you a U.S. Model 1861 “Springfield” Rifle-Musket, bayonet, belt, bayonet scabbard, cap box, cartridge box, haversack and canteen. These weigh 13 ½ pounds. In addition, you will be expected to carry 5 pounds of ammunition. From the list of personal items, decide what else you will take with you on your marches. Answers will vary.

List of Personal Items

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Weight of Item</u> | <u>(X) Quantity</u> | <u>(=)Total Weight</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Pants | 1 lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Forage cap | ½ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Shirt | ½ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Jacket | 3 lbs. | _____ | _____ |
| Socks | ½ lb. (pair) | _____ | _____ |
| Shoes | 2 lbs. | _____ | _____ |
| Cup | ¼ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Utensils | ¼ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Cooking Pan | 1 lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Canteen | 4 lbs. | _____ | _____ |
| Soap | ¼ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Shaving razor | ¼ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Comb | 1/8 lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Dice | 1/8 lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Blanket | 3 lbs. | _____ | _____ |
| Housewife | ¼ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Candle | ¼ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Playing Cards | 1/8 lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Bible | ½ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Book | ½ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Stationary | ¼ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Pencil | 1/8 lb. | _____ | _____ |
| “Dog” Tent | 12 lbs. | _____ | _____ |
| Lantern | 3 lbs. | _____ | _____ |
| Knife | ¼ lb. | _____ | _____ |
| Coat | 4 lbs. | _____ | _____ |
| Candle Holder | 2 lbs. | _____ | _____ |

OTHER ITEMS (extra food, tobacco, leisure activities, etc.)

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| Rifle, cartridges, etc. required by Army | | + 18 lbs |

Total Weight _____

How much are you going to carry? If you would like, use a scale, backpack, and weights (books?) and load your total weight into a backpack and walk around the room to see what it would feel like to be a common soldier on the march.